

The USDA is seeking public comments on the following farm policy considerations:

1. **Challenges for New Farmers:** How should farm policy address unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

fund research + extension into agricultural water quality and point-source pollution. Support university-based outreach programs that assist new and existing growers.

2. **Competitiveness:** How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

3. **Farm Program Benefits:** Is current farm policy designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance?

No. Nursery crops are leading agricultural products in many states, but are not eligible for disaster-relief funding. Federal research funds are also not available for greenhouse and ornamental crops (beyond the Nursery Floral Crops grants - only \$10M).

4. **Conservation Goals:** How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

Support outreach and research between USDA, state universities and the agriculture industry.

5. **Rural Economic Growth:** How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

6. **Expansion of Ag Products, Markets, and Research:** How should agricultural product, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next Farm Bill?

Increase funding of Hatch and Smith-Lever programs. University-based research and outreach programs in agriculture cannot survive on short-term competitive grant funding - long term program funding will build long lasting relationships and healthy farmers.

usda-cisr.gov/
Farm Bill Forum



YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT— DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD!

There are a number of ways to get your opinions recorded!

- 1. Share your thoughts at this Forum – transcripts will be provided to the Secretary of Agriculture.**
- 2. Put your written comments in the comment boxes at the USDA Help Desk today.**
- 3. Log on to the Farm Bill Website at www.USDA.gov/farmbill and enter your comments by 12/30/2005.**
- 4. Mail your comments to the address below by 12/30/2005.**

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Farm Bill
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Additional Space for Comments